

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1. (Original) A wear-resistant sliding part comprising:

a first part and a second part that move in linkage with each other; and
a wear-resistant member that stands in between contacting portions of the two parts;
wherein said wear-resistant member is inserted in a recess provided in the second part in a state
in which it is protected from falling off and it is allowed in the recess to rotate and move in a
parallel direction to a bottom surface of the recess;
wherein a bottom surface of the wear-resistant member makes contact with the bottom surface of
the recess and the first part makes contact with the top surface of the wear-resistant member,
allowing the first and the second parts to move; and
wherein a perimeter of the bottom surface of said wear-resistant member has a chamfer that
eliminates a sharp edge.

2. (Original) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 1, wherein the chamfer
at the perimeter of the bottom surface of said wear-resistant member is larger than a rounded
fillet or a flat fillet of said recess.

3. (Currently Amended) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~,
wherein a chamfer is also formed to eliminate a sharp edge at a perimeter of a top surface of said
wear-resistant member.

4. (Original) A wear-resistant sliding part comprising:

a first part and a second part that move in linkage with each other, and
a wear-resistant member that stands in between contacting portions of the two parts;

wherein said wear-resistant member is inserted in a recess provided in the second part in a state in which it is protected from falling off from the recess and it is allowed in the recess to rotate and move in a parallel direction to a bottom surface of the recess;
wherein a bottom surface of the wear-resistant member makes contact with the bottom surface of the recess and the first part makes contact with the top surface of the wear-resistant member, allowing the first and the second parts to move; and
wherein the bottom surface of said wear-resistant member making contact with an inner radial surface of said recess has a flatness in the range of 0.05 to 20 μm and a convex shape of which outer side is raised up at the perimeter side.

5. (Original) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 4, wherein the flatness of the bottom surface of said wear-resistant member is larger than that of the bottom surface of the recess provided for said second part.

6. (Original) A wear-resistant sliding part comprising:
a first part and a second part that move in linkage with each other; and
a wear-resistant member that stands in between contacting portions of the two parts;
wherein said wear-resistant member is inserted in a recess provided in the second part in a state in which it is protected from falling off from the recess and it is allowed in the recess to rotate and move in a parallel direction to a bottom surface of the recess;
wherein the bottom surface of the wear-resistant member makes contact with the bottom surface of the recess and the first part makes contact with the top surface of the wear-resistant member, allowing the first and the second parts to move; and
wherein at least one of the bottom surface of the wear-resistant member making contact with the bottom surface of said recess, a side surface of the wear-resistant member making contact with

an inner radial surface of said recess, and a top surface of the wear-resistant member making contact with said first part has a surface roughness (Ra) of 0.2 μm or less.

7. (Currently Amended) The wear-resistant sliding part according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 6~~, wherein the difference between an outer diameter of said wear-resistant member and an inner diameter of said recess is 0.03 mm or more.

8. (Currently Amended) The wear-resistant sliding part according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~ 4, wherein ~~said wear-resistant member is made from materials including silicon nitride ceramics.~~ the difference between an outer diameter of said wear-resistant member and an inner diameter of said recess is 0.03 mm or more.

9. (Currently Amended) The wear-resistant sliding part according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~ 6, wherein ~~the two parts moving in linkage with each other are a valve bridge and a rocker arm in a valve train system of a diesel engine, wherein said wear-resistant member is inserted into the recess provided at an upper portion of the valve bridge and a tip of the wear-resistant member is arranged to make contact with the rocker arm.~~ difference between an outer diameter of said wear-resistant member and an inner diameter of said recess is 0.03 mm or more.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A sliding mechanism using the~~ The wear-resistant sliding part according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 9.~~ wherein said wear-resistant member is made from materials including silicon nitride ceramics.

11. (New) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 4, wherein said wear-resistant member is made from materials including silicon nitride ceramics.

12. (New) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 6, wherein said wear-resistant member is made from materials including silicon nitride ceramics.

13. (New) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 1, wherein the two parts moving in linkage with each other are a valve bridge and a rocker arm in a valve train system of a diesel engine, wherein said wear-resistant member is inserted into the recess provided at an upper portion of the valve bridge and a tip of the wear-resistant member is arranged to make contact with the rocker arm.

14. (New) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 4, wherein the two parts moving in linkage with each other are a valve bridge and a rocker arm in a valve train system of a diesel engine, wherein said wear-resistant member is inserted into the recess provided at an upper portion of the valve bridge and a tip of the wear-resistant member is arranged to make contact with the rocker arm.

15. (New) The wear-resistant sliding part according to claim 6, wherein the two parts moving in linkage with each other are a valve bridge and a rocker arm in a valve train system of a diesel engine, wherein said wear-resistant member is inserted into the recess provided at an upper portion of the valve bridge and a tip of the wear-resistant member is arranged to make contact with the rocker arm.

16. (New) A sliding mechanism using the sliding part according to claim 1.

17. (New) A sliding mechanism using the sliding part according to claim 4.

18. (New) A sliding mechanism using the sliding part according to claim 6.